

**POWELL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING – November 14, 2022 – 6:30 p.m. – PCHS Library**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Jennifer Nicholson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. ROLL:

Board Chair: Jennifer Nicholson.

Board Members: Amanda Bohrer, Baylee Brown, Will Graveley, Maureen Mannix, and Robert Rabel.

Administration: Rick Duncan, Katie Crofutt, and Annette Galahan.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

4. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS:

Bob Schalk and Luke Ulatowski.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Action: Robert Rabel moved to approve the October 10, 2022 regular meeting minutes, with a correction regarding 2 October claims, Bank of America (not yet printed) and Charter Communications, which had a correction, seconded by Will Graveley.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. CORRESPONDENCE:

Rick Duncan received the following letter:

September 22, 2022

Dear Mr. Duncan,

I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to Powell County High School; in particular, Mr. Schalk. While on our way to the Powell County Cross Country meet at Grant-Kohrs Ranch, our bus broke down on the side of the interstate. I called Mr. Schalk to see if he would be able to get a bus to come pick up our student so we could make the meet on time, and without hesitation the bus was on the way.

Powell County High School, Mr. Schalk, and the transportation department are as first class as any school that I have encountered in the State of Montana. On behalf of myself and Beaverhead County High School, I cannot thank you enough.

Sincerely,

Brock Myllymaki

Activities Director

Beaverhead County High School

Katie Crofutt received the following letter:

To the Powell County High School Principal,

On behalf of the Powell County Parks Board, I would like to thank you for allowing your sophomore class to come out to Arrowstone Park on September 21 to participate in a volunteer park cleanup day.

Arrowstone Park is a 25-acre park that incorporates river access, trails, and a disc-golf course. It is the only Park that Powell County manages and is an important feature of the community of Deer Lodge. The Park draws visitors from all over Southwest Montana and is a popular stop for those visiting from out-of-town. It is also an important riparian habitat and is home to many species of birds and mammals.

...The small amount of time that your students spent cleaning, trimming, and removing old dead growth is a great service to the park and its visitors. It helped to improve the health of the vegetation and wildlife habitat. It makes the park look much nicer and well kept, which shows community pride and reflects on the strength of the community of Deer Lodge. The County operates park maintenance with a limited staff and both the staff and Parks Board were very grateful to have the extra hands.

Best of luck on the rest of your school year and thank you again for your time.

*Sincerely,
Amanda Cooley, Powell County Planning Director
The Powell County Parks Board*

7. STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT:

Student Council President Jaina Meador was present to discuss the following student activities: FCCLA, NHS, and Student Council are working to prepare the Angel Tree; FCCLA's Trick-or-Treat food drive yielded 750 pounds of food which was given to the Deer Lodge Food Pantry, and 650 pounds of food which went to the school food pantry; FFA attended John Deere Days; FCCLA hosts a District convention November 16th at the Rialto, with 4-5 schools attending. Part of the convention includes a fleece blanket service project and a Distracted Driving presentation; E-sports is in its last week and has had a successful first year; Fandom Club has resurrected; and winter sports begins next week.

8. ATHLETIC DIRECTOR REPORT:

Bob Schalk was present to discuss activities. Mr. Schalk thanked Dave Miller for picking up the Beaverhead High School Cross Country team. He stated that fall sports are over, head coach evaluations are complete, and the awards dinners are all scheduled. Mr. Schalk said that we will once again petition MHSA to remain in 8-Man Football for the

2022-23 season, and a school-wide weight training program has been developed for coaches to work together in scheduling use of the weight room. Winter sports begin Thursday, November 17th – the parent meeting was already held, with the AIM Higher attendees speaking. Mr. Schalk provided the following numbers of winter sports participants: 33 boys in basketball; 19 girls in basketball; 4-5 girls in cheerleading; and 8 girls and 4 boys in wrestling.

Mr. Schalk added that all advisors/coaches are on the Remind App, and a replacement Pixelot camera has been received – games will now show the entire scoreboard. Other discussion included the new shot clocks, who all the winter coaches are, which follow:

- Boys Basketball: Will Pauley, Tennyson Miller, and Justin Marshall.
- Girls Basketball: Bill Clayton, Bethany Ewing, and Kate Simpson (if approved tonight).
- Wrestling: Austin Micu and J.R. Slaughtner.
- Cheerleading: Erin Jewell and Jerica Marjerison (volunteer).

Another discussion was regarding fingerprint background checks. Baylee Brown asked if it is “one and done” or if employees should be checked annually. Maureen Mannix brought up name-based background checks while waiting for fingerprint results.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Employment Contracts

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to hire Kaitlyn Simpson as Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, pending a name-based background check, seconded by Baylee Brown.

Discussion included questions about background checks for quick hires. Mr. Duncan stated that any new coach that starts before the background check is received back, is under the direct supervision of a head coach.

The motion passed unanimously.

Student Attendance Agreements

Rick Duncan brought back from last month 2 elementary Student Attendance Agreements that he said are outside of the Powell County High School District jurisdiction. Mr. Duncan will send them back to Drummond Public Schools, as the agreements should be between Drummond and Gold Creek. Discussion included ineligible, out-of-district elementary riders on the Sackman high school bus, the non-operating status of Gold Creek Elementary, and the requirement for the Gold Creek board to meet for 3 years during non-operating status. The Board rejected the Student Attendance Agreements due to lack of jurisdiction to sign on behalf of Gold Creek, and also denied bus transportation for the 2 elementary students, out of safety concerns at the bus stop. The Drummond and Gold Creek boards should approve the Student Attendance Agreements, and then request PCHS approval for ridership on the high school bus.

Board Policy Review

Rick Duncan presented the following board policies, which are all required:

- **BP 1520: Board Staff Communications**

Action: Amanda Bohrer moved to approve BP 1520, seconded by Baylee Brown.
The motion passed unanimously.

- **BP 2312: Copyright**

Action: Robert Rabel moved to approve BP 2312 with an amendment to line 42 changing “should” to “shall”, seconded by Maureen Mannix.

Discussion included questions about livestreaming performances, etc. on Facebook, comments that it’s much better now reduced from 5 pages down to 1 page, but that it doesn’t include as much direction for teachers.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **BP 2510: School Wellness**

Action: Will Graveley moved to approve BP 2510, seconded by Jennifer Nicholson.

Discussion included Robert Rabel stating that this is a new policy, and Baylee Brown asked if we have health and nutrition class for all students. Katie Crofutt responded that Fitness for Life is a required class for all students. Maureen Mannix questioned if it’s new, and should it be approved on 1st or 2nd reading.

Action: Maureen Mannix moved to table BP 2510: School Wellness in order to have a 2nd reading, seconded by Will Graveley.

The motion passed unanimously.

- **BP 3121: Enrollment and Attendance Records**

Action: Baylee Brown moved to approve BP 3121, seconded by Maureen Mannix.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Katie Crofutt reported a November 14, 2022 enrollment of 189 students, and consists of the following: 54 freshman, 60 sophomores, 40 juniors, and 33 seniors. Included in the count are 0 Job Corp students, and 0 Youth Challenge students. Mrs. Crofutt discussed the following: an upcoming Tech Day and rolling portfolios; the Honor Roll, which includes 52% of the student body; a Veteran’s Day celebration with homemade cinnamon rolls from the Foods classes; the upcoming Cognia accreditation and the Leadership Team; and the AIM Higher workshop at Montana Tech. Mrs. Crofutt also thanked the Board for changing the eligibility requirements for activities, as it has been impactful and has helped several students.

Mrs. Crufutt also reviewed the following professional goals:

- Engage the community: she writes a monthly article for the Silver State Post.
- Community service: students recently participated in the annual Wood Chuck (there were 40 applicants for 10 slots); and students wrote 42 cards for veterans for the Veteran’s Day celebration.

- Create pathways: discussed Montana Tech CNA Certificates, rolling portfolios, and College Application Day.
- Structured teacher growth.

Amanda Bohrer said that she loves reading Mrs. Crofutt's articles and loves her Facebook posts, both of which are very helpful. Maureen Mannix had questions about teacher evaluations, curriculum and Golden Triangle. Baylee Brown mentioned the 52% on honor roll and asked if it's due to the block schedule. Rick Duncan responded that the students respond very well to the condensed schedule, and also intuitively believes that the honor roll and eligibility are related. Questions were asked about the 48% not on honor roll, and if kids aren't participating in activities for financial reasons. The Board wants to make sure there are no barriers.

Katie Crofutt gave a drug-test update. She stated that last year 114 kids were tested, which was 20%-23%. We are testing 15% this year and looking to lower the percentage tested.

11. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Rick Duncan gave a Covid update and said that we continue to be in good shape, and he also reviewed the Trustee's Annual Goals. Mr. Duncan also gave a Joint Committee update, and said there were 2 meetings in October, where the committee established the Superintendent Evaluation Form, and discussed putting unification of Powell County High School District and Deer Lodge Elementary District on the May ballot or run a special election in July. A county-wide vote to approve a unification measure means it would take effect the following July 1st. The committee is also looking at the tax impact with questions for the Department of Revenue. Joint Committee members Maureen Mannix and Will Graveley commented that they've looked at revenue and need more knowledge-based information, and that there are a lot of ideas, but more information is needed. When tax repercussions are determined, then the committee will decide if unification is the way to go. Discussion included comments about informing the public, necessity of public meetings, and is it in the best interest of Powell County students. The next Joint Committee meeting will be November 29th.

12. BUSINESS MANAGER

Action: Baylee Brown moved to approve the November bills as presented, including the delayed bill – Bank of America after check is printed, and a correction to Rockler Woodworking and Hardware (to be reviewed by Ms. Brown the next day), seconded by Robert Rabel.

Questions were asked about the Bank of America, and Annette Galahan explained that it was not ready due to the sheer volume of the bill, and she ran out of time. Numerous online purchases are slowing down preparation time, and in the future will be done in advance. Baylee Brown had questions about a Fickler Oil statement where the odometer readings didn't match up; Rick Duncan and Annette Galahan jointly explained that the

maintenance staff fuels up various vehicles and gas cans, so the odometer readings would never be sequential. Maureen Mannix asked about Cognia and Deer Lodge Elementary. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Galahan provided the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures vs. Actuals for September via email; there were no questions.

10. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Title IX update.
- Drug testing.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by unanimous consent.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, December 12, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

s/Annette Galahan, District Business Manager/Clerk

s/Jennifer Nicholson, Board Chair